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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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## Drought Reduces Cotton Crop

The cotton crop is now forecast at 13,889,000 bales, down from the August 1 estimate by 846,000 bales or 6 percent. Losses from drought and other causes in Texas, Oklahoma, and the southeast more than offset increases in central and western areas. Last year's crop, 15,144,000; 10-year average, 11,775,000 bales.

## Texas Crop Off Half Million Bales From '51

Cotton crop in Texas is reported over a half million bales short of last year; Oklahoma, down a quarter million bales. Boll rot and boll weevils cause losses in South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

## Big Increase In Western Cotton States

The 3 1/4-million-bale total forecast for the 3 western cotton States of California, Arizona and New Mexico is nearly a half million bales more than they produced in 1951, and more than 3 times the 1941-50 average.

## Cotton Acreage For Harvest Down 7 Percent

Cotton acreage for harvest, U. S., 24.7 million, is 7 percent less than the 26.7 million acres last year and compares with the 10-year average of 21 million acres.

## Large All-Crop Volume, Record Total Farm Output

Despite reduced prospects for cotton and a few other crops, most late growing crops improved during August and the all-crop volume is now indicated very close to the second largest of record...nearly the same as in 1949 and only 4 percent below the record volume reached in 1948. When livestock and products are added to crops, total farm output this year is expected to top all previous years.

**PROSPECTS IMPROVED IN AUGUST FOR** corn, barley, flaxseed, rice, all hay, soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, sweet-potatoes, tobacco, sugarcane, sugar beets, broomcorn, hops and pecans. Besides the sharp cut in cotton production, minor declines from a month ago are shown for sorghum grain, dry beans and peas.

## Big Corn Crop

Corn prospects improved in August by nearly 50 million bushels. Crop is now estimated at 3.2 billion bushels, 6 percent above average and 8 percent above last year's crop of 2.9 billion bushels. Record crop in 1948 was 3.6 billion bushels. Yield per acre this year, at 38.7 bushels, is 2.5 bushels above last year and 4 bushels above average.

## Other Feed Grains

Oats crop, at 1,264 million bushels, is close to the 1,316 million produced a year ago and the 1,311 million average. Barley is estimated at 221,138,000 bushels compared with 254,668,000 year ago and 306,127,000 average. Sorghum grain, at only 72,377,000 bushels, compares with 159,265,000 last year and 132,598,000 bushels average.

## Feed Grain Tonnage Above Last Year

The nearly 117 million tons of feed grains now in prospect will top a year ago by about 3 million tons. This year's tonnage is larger than in most years prior to 1948 but less than in '48, '49 and '50.

## Hay Crop Improves

Hay is turning out better than expected. Crop is now estimated at 102.4 million tons, compared with the 99.6

million tons forecast in August. Supply, however, is poorly distributed. shortages in the dry areas of the South and Southwest, surpluses in the mid-West. Hay crop last year was 108 million tons; 1941-50 average, 101 million tons.

## Pastures Relatively Poor

Pasture condition September 1 averaged 70 percent of normal for the country as a whole—9 points below a year ago and 8 points below the average for Sept. 1. Pasture feed continued short in many sections and for the country as a whole equalled the poorest for the date in a dozen years.

## Food Grains Near Record

The 1.3-billion bushel wheat crop and the record rice crop of over 46 million bags (100 lb.) assure a near-record tonnage of food grains for this year. Rye production, 15.8 million bushels compared with 21.4 million last year, is a small crop; buckwheat also will contribute relatively little to the total. Total output of food grains is expected to top the 1935-39 average by about 65 percent, and nearly a third larger than last year's output.

## All Grains 159 Million Tons

Total grain tonnage produced this year--4 feed and 4 food grains--is indicated at 159 million tons compared with 146 million a year ago and the 1941-50 average of 151 million tons.

## Oilseed Tonnage A Fifth Above Average

Tonnage of oilseed will be smaller than last year by 7 percent, though nearly 20 percent above average. Soybean prospects improved in August...now estimated at 276 million bushels compared with 281 million bushels produced in 1951, and 202 million average. Peanuts also improved but the acreage is small and the 1,188 million pounds in prospect is less than 60 percent of average. Flaxseed production, at 30.7 million bushels, is nearly a tenth less than in 1951 and the outturn of cottonseed may be 11 percent less than in 1951.

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	July 15 1952	Aug. 15 1952	Aug. 15 1952
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	1.98	2.04	2.46
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.73	1.73	1.78
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.3	10.9	13.3
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	37.02	37.92	34.47
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	2.74	2.78	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	20.00	20.90	21.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	26.00	24.90	21.10
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	28.80	27.40	23.60
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	25.50	25.60	23.20
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	1/ 76.9	1/ 76.6	76.6
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ....dol.	1/ 4.92	1/2/ 4.87	4.82
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	26.0	26.5	32.4
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	1/ 44.6	1/ 46.9	50.8

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.



### More Potatoes Than Last Year

Irish potato production is now estimated at 338 million bushels, an increase from last year of about 12 million bushels. Improved yield prospects in the West more than offset declines elsewhere. 1941-50 average production is 415 million bushels.

### Sweetpotatoes, Another Small Crop

Sweetpotato prospects have improved from a month ago but the 30-million bushel estimate will be only a little over half of an average crop. Production last year 28 million bushels; 1941-50 average, 58 million.

### Sugar Beets and Sugar cane

The sugar beet crop forecast at 10.2 million tons compares with 10.5 million tons produced last year and the 10-year average of 10 million tons. Yield per acre this year is about 15 tons, 10-year average, 13.2 tons. Sugarcane production, for sugar and seed, is indicated at 7.7 million tons. This compares with 6.1 million tons harvested last year, and the 10-year average of 6.2 million tons. Yield per acre will be about 23.1 tons, compared with 19.2 tons last year, and 19.9 tons average.

### Tobacco Crop Nearly Up To Last Year's Total

This year's total tobacco production is estimated at 2.2 billion pounds, up 8 percent from a month ago. Last year's harvest was 2.3 billion pounds; 10-year average, 1.8 billion.

### Flue-cured, Burley, and Other Tobacco

Flue-cured is indicated at 1,380 million pounds compared with 1,452 million last year. The burley crop, at 606 million pounds, compares with 617 million pounds produced last year. Production of Maryland tobacco is estimated at 38 million pounds, compared with 41.6 million pounds harvested last year. Fire-cured and dark air cured production is estimated at 49.7 and 27.7 million pounds compared with 59.5 and 31.7 million pounds, respectively, harvested in 1951.

### Orange Prospects, Average; Grapefruit, Below Average

Prospects for the 1952-53 citrus crop are good in California and Florida but poor in the other 3 citrus growing states. Orange condition Sept. 1 averaged 73 percent, same as year ago and same as average. Grapefruit condition at 48 percent, was 4 points above a year ago but 15 points below average. New crop California lemons were reported at 75 percent, down 2 points from year ago 1 point above average.

### Other Fruits, Production Estimates Sept. 1

Apples, 98 million bushels. Production last year 110.7 million bushels; 1941-50 average, 110.4 million. Peaches, 61.6 million bushels. Production last year, 63.6 million bushels; 1941-50 average, 68.2 million. Pears, 29.8 million bushels. Production last year 30.0 million bushels; 1941-50 average 30.3 million. Grapes, 3 million tons. Production last year, 3.4 million; 1941-50 average, 2.8 million. Cherries (12 States) 202 thousand tons. Production last year 230 thousand tons; average 191 thousand tons. Apricots (3 States) 174 thousand tons. Production last year, 183 thousand; average 229 thousand tons. Cranberries, 908 thousand tons. Production last year, 910 thousand; average 770 thousand tons.

### Dry Beans and Peas

Production of dry beans is estimated at 15.5 million bags (100 lb. uncleaned basis) compared with 17.4 million bags harvested in 1951. Crop is smallest since 1945 and is 14 percent below the 1941-50 average. Dry peas estimated at 2.7 million bags (100 lb. uncleaned) are about 28 percent below last year's production and are less than half the 10-year average of 6 million bags.

### Pecans, Almonds, Walnuts and Filberts

U. S. pecan crop, at 125.6 million pounds, is 19 percent less than last year's production but is 2 percent above average. The almond crop, forecast at 35.300 tons, is a-

bove average but below the 42,700 tons produced last year. Walnut production at 81,100 tons, is 3,700 tons above the 1951 crop. And the filbert crop, estimated at 11,430 tons will top both the 1951 crop and average by about 65 percent.

### Milk Production Off Last Month

The 10.2 billion pounds of milk produced in August totaled 3 percent less than a year earlier and amounted to the smallest output for the month since 1940. Milk per cow, however, declined much less than usual during the month. Fewer cows were milked than a year ago. In the first 8 months of 1952, milk production totaled 81.2 billion pounds compared with 82.5 billion pounds year ago; 10-year average for the period, 83.3 billion pounds.

### Record Egg Output

Farm flocks laid 4.2 billion eggs last month, record high for the month and 10 percent more than the 1941-50 average. Output in August year ago was 4.1 billion; 10-year average, 3.8 billion. Eggs laid January through August, totaled 43.3 billion eggs. Compares with 42 billion same period last year and 40.5 billion average.

### Hatchery Production

The 75.5 million commercial chicks hatched in August totaled 15 percent less than the 89.1 million hatched in the same month last year and 58 percent more than the 1946-50 average. Chicks for broilers in strong demand. Supplies of hatching eggs a limiting factor. September hatch expected to be near that of a year ago.

### Demand Steady, Little Change In Price Levels

Spending by consumers has held close to the high level reached earlier this year. Consumer demand for farm products steady. little change in prices received and prices paid by farmers generally in recent weeks. Industrial production in August had recovered much of the ground lost as a result of work stoppage in steel...further improvement expected.

### Farm Employment; Total Employment, High

The total of 11.5 million, hired and farm family workers, at work on farms last of August was lower than a year ago by 2 percent. The decrease follows recent trend. Non-agricultural employment continues high. Civilians employed throughout the country in August totaled 62.4 million compared with 62.2 million in July (Census). Unemployed was down to 1.6 million, from the 1.9 million in July, and was the same as a year ago.

### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	August 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	295
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	287
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	103
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 287
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	I/ 303
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	2/ 506
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	I/ 574
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Aug. 1951	Jan.-Aug. 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	82510	81225
Eggs, (bil.).....	42035	43390
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 3656	3/ 3914
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 261	3/ 319
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	3/ 6465	3/ 6698
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	3/ 10691	3/ 11243
1/ July figure.		
2/ July 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
3/ Jan.—July under Federal inspection.		